In Review

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LIbRaRIes Room by Room
dedication of the third piece of messinger family’s project completes an effort to restore historic spaces for students.

By Kathleen McGarvey

The views of Eastman Quad from Rush Rhees Library’s second floor haven’t changed, but the rooms inside certainly have.
The second of two new graduate studies was officially opened in May at a special ceremony honoring trustee Martin Messinger ’49 and his family, who donated the funds for the studies’ creation. The rooms flank the Martin E. Messinger ’49 Periodical Reading Room, which was dramatically renovated in the late 1990s. Together, the three rooms form a renovated and restored west front on the second floor of the library.

“If you look at how the library is running, with students there around the clock, you see that it’s pivotal, and necessary,” Messinger says of his belief in the centrality of libraries. “You have to give students the infrastructure they need to do their work. Other than feeding them, I can’t think of anything more important.”

He recalls working in the Periodical Reading Room when he was a student. “It was a great, open room,” he says, but fluorescent ceiling lights added in the 1960s created “lousy lighting.”

In time for Rochester’s sesquicentennial in 2000, the room was reopened, complete with pendant lights resembling the original 1930s fixtures and an ambience that has made it one of the library’s most popular spaces.

With this spring’s dedication of Messinger Graduate Study Room South and its companion, Messinger Graduate Study Room North, Rochester students have a suite of comfortable and historic spaces in which to study. The two graduate student rooms had
Take a Tour

To see more views of the Messinger rooms at Rush Rhees Library, including 360-degree panoramic views of the three rooms along with before and after photos, and to learn more about the Messinger family, visit Review’s Web site at www.rochester.edu/pr/Review.